

A CENSUS OF LONGLEAF PINE IN VIRGINIA

Philip Sheridan^{1&2}, Anne Simpson¹, Nancy Penick¹, and John Scrivani³

¹Meadowview Biological Research Station, Woodford, VA

²Blackwater Ecologic Preserve, Department of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

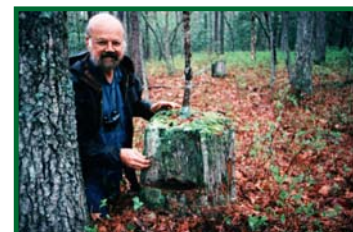
³Virginia Department of Forestry, Charlottesville, VA

ABSTRACT

A census was conducted to determine both the number of longleaf pine left in Virginia and stand characteristics. A total of four thousand four hundred thirty two trees and 121 seedlings were counted in Isle of Wight and Southampton Counties, and Suffolk City. Most trees ranged in diameter between 4 and 8 inches with the champion tree in Suffolk City at 26 inches. Since remaining longleaf pine stands in Virginia represent only a fraction of the estimated original 1.5 million acres we recommend a restoration and reforestation effort within this tree's historic Virginia range.

OBJECTIVES

- Inventory remaining longleaf pine in Virginia



Cecil Frost examines longleaf pine turpentine box at old growth stand near Seacock Swamp.

- Assess the reproductive success of extant longleaf pine colonies
- Measure diameter at breast height (dbh) of stands to interpret site history

METHODS

- Consulted literature and personal references for longleaf pine occurrences
- Surveyed appropriate habitat for longleaf pine

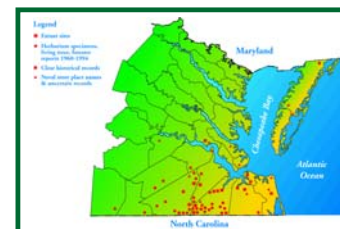
- Measured and recorded dbh, stand location, and site characteristics



Anne Simpson shows 4H volunteers how to measure a longleaf pine.

RESULTS

- 4432 longleaf pine remaining in Isle of Wight and Southampton counties and the City of Suffolk



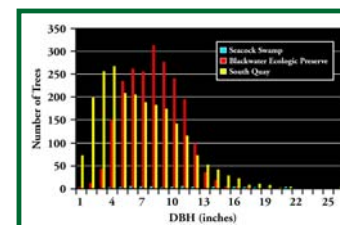
Historic range of longleaf pine in Virginia and extant sites.

- 121 seedlings



Natural regeneration of longleaf at South Quay.

- The dbh mode for longleaf pine at Zuni is 8 inches and 4 inches at South Quay



Diameter and number of longleaf pine in remaining Virginia sites.

CONCLUSIONS

- Few remaining longleaf pine in Virginia
- Longleaf pine is currently restricted to xeric sand ridges



Natural stand of longleaf pine on xeric sand ridge at South Quay

- Longleaf pine should be restored within its historic Virginia range



View of restored longleaf pine habitat at entrance to Blackwater Ecologic Preserve

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was supported by a grant from the Barbara Harvill Memorial Fund and members of Meadowview Biological Research Station. Special thanks to Department of Forestry for providing accommodations and census assistance. Assistance was also provided by 4H volunteers. Map used with permission of Cecil Frost. Poster prepared by Old Dominion University Center for Learning Technologies Graphics Office.